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THURSDAY, May 8,2025

The Courier Leader

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Happy Mothers Day!!

Sunday, May 11,2025

Grand Opening held for Decatur Area Waste and Recycling Center

The Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD), along with its partners at Hamilton and Decatur townships, and the Village of Decatur jointly announced that on Sat-urday April 26, the Decatur Area Waste and Recycling Center, 300 West Beers St., Decatur, officially opened to the public for year-round access to bulk trash disposal and recycling drop-off.

Through partnership, the VBCD and the municipalities worked together to make this dream a reality. The communities now have local access to much-needed services without having to travel far. Through the dedication of the community, a lasting impact has been provided. Now, services once unavailable locally will be accessible and convenient.

A ribbon cutting marking the grand opening of the Decatur Area Waste and Recycling Center was held Tuesday, April 29, n Decatur. In attendance, there were representatives of Decatur and Hamilton townships, Village of Decatur, and the Van Buren Conservation District.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

With this initiative, the partners look forward to a cleaner community. Not only is it providing a service for the people with the project, but it is also doing a service for the land and water. Items such as paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, and even tires can be recycled and unsightly items like destroyed furniture can be taken care of properly rather than dumped into ditches and waterways.

The partners expressed thanks to the many individuals who made this possible: municipal partners, county commissioners, and grant providers for their hard work, funding, and support. Without this partnership, the project would not have been possible. The Van Buren Conservation District is proud to have been able to help the community by apply-ing and managing the grant and assisting the community through the project.

The partners' efforts have created a true center - complete with a new entrance, signage, easy access, and permanent structures.

The Decatur Area Waste and Recycling Center is open to the public, Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., as well as Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Recycling drop-off is free to residents of Hamilton and Decatur townships, and the Village of Decatur.

A fee schedule can be found at the station or at the municipal halls. Fees can be paid with credit/debit card on site or visit the Decatur Village Hall to pay with cash.

Funding for this project was made possible through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Recycling Infrastructure Grant and The Recycling Partnership.

Matching funds were provided by the municipal partners and the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners.

For more information, visit the Village of Decatur's website (www.decaturmi.org) or call (269) 423-4621. For recycling questions and more, contact VBCD Recycling Coordinator Kalli Marshall by emailing ResourceRecovery@VanBurenCD.org or by calling (269) 633-9314.

Lawrence Senior High Band takes straight 1s in state competition

Lawrence Public Schools' Senior High Band received a Lawrence Township Emergency Services escort into Lawrence on Saturday following their participation in state Band Festival competition in which they received straight 1s. The award-winning band will present their Spring Band Concert May 15, at 7 p.m. at Lawrence High School's Dorothy Jung auditorium.

Courtesy photos

Paw Paw names Class of 2025 Academic Elite

Members of Paw Paw High School's Class of 2025 Academic Elite include in the back row, from left, Levi Vestrand, Phillip Staffen, Kaetlyn Muir, Darrin Strey, Arin Rickli, Barron Marinich, and Collin Campbell; in the middle row, from left, Taya Southworth, Johanna Solis, Ella Boris, Kira Kessen, Madelyn Ameling, and Makenna Crafts; in the front row, seated from left, Ashley Olsen, Brynn Flanders, Mary Stewart, Meah Hameed, Megan Cox, and Lily Imus.Missing from photo is Emilee McNitt.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Gronda named MSBOA District 6 Band Teacher of the Year

Paw Paw High School Band Director Amy Gronda was recently named MSBOA District 6 Band Teacher of the Year for 2024/2025. "A well-deserved award and an amazing way to end a distinguished career in Paw Paw. Thank you for creating a band program that our community can be proud of," said Paw Paw Public Schools Superintendent Jeremy Davison. Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Public Schools

National Day of Prayer event held in Paw Paw

The greater Paw Paw area's National Day of Prayer was held Thursday, May 1, at noon at St. Mary Catholic Church, Paw Paw. The theme for the 2025 National Day of Prayer, was "Pour Out to the God of Hope and Be Filled." In the photo above, students from Trinity Lutheran School and St. Mary's School provided musical selections during the hour-long service of prayer and music.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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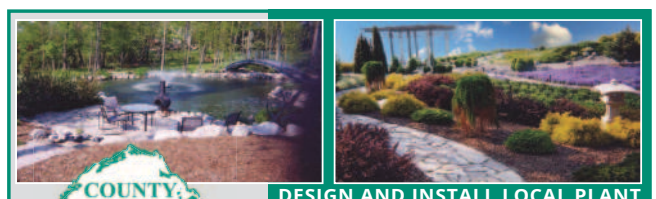

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Driver crashes into house, then later in to tree

One person has been arrested for operating while intoxicated following two crashes in Van Buren County early Saturday morning.

Around 2:30 a.m., deputies with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office were sent to the area of M-51 Highway and 82nd Avenue for a crash.

Responding deputies learned that a red Jeep Cherokee had gone off the road, hit a sign and then a house. The house had minor damage to the siding. The sheriff's office said the vehicle took off.

Deputies searched the area but were unable to find it.

At 2:45 a.m., deputies were sent to County Road 655 south of 60th Avenue in Paw Paw Township for a crash. There, deputies found a red Jeep Cherokee that had gone off the road and crashed in the wooded area. The three people inside the SUV all had minor injuries. The sheriff's office said that two of them refused medical treatment and the third was taken to the hospital. None of them was willing to give a statement about the crash.

The scene of a crash in Paw Paw Township on May 3, 2025. (Courtesy of the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office)

Deputies determined that the SUV at the second crash was the vehicle involved in the first crash.

The driver, a 19-year-old Kalamazoo man, was arrested for operating while intoxicated and leaving the scene of a crash. His name has not been released pending arraignment.

Three VBISD bus drivers earn top honors

1st Place: Melanie Cheek

2nd Place: Autumn Stevens

3rd Place: Robert Mead

On Saturday, April 26, the Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) hosted a Bus Roadeo- a spirited and skill-driven competition that celebrates the critical role school bus drivers play in student safety and school operations. The event was organized by the VBISD Transportation Department, under the leadership of Terry Lechenet, and welcomed over 40 bus drivers from across southwest Michigan. Held across the Learning Center, VBISD Transportation, and VB Tech's parking facilities, the Roadeo tested drivers in a series of rigorous challenges including obstacle navigation, tight turns, simulated student pick-up and drop-off procedures, safety checks, and a comprehensive written exam. Nearly all VBISD drivers placed in the top ten rankings, a testament to their skill, preparation, and unwavering commitment to student safety. All three top awards were claimed by VBISD drivers.

County SWAT Team assists KDPS in Antwerp search warrant

ANTWERP TWP. – The Van Buren County SWAT team executed a search warrant with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Monday morning, May 5, on 25th Street in Antwerp Township, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office

"The search warrant was executed around 9:30 a.m. with KDPS (KVET) in the 51000 block of 25th St. KDPS had information about possible narcotic sales in Van Buren County. A joint investigation was conducted by both departments. Once the residence was secured by the Van Buren County SWAT team, the investigation was turned over to KVET officers with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

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Vineyard Assisted Living to break ground on memory care facility

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Scheduled for May 13 at 3 p.m.

Vineyard Assisted Living is proud to announce the groundbreaking of its new

Vineyard Memory Care Community, marking a significant step forward in providing compassionate,

high-quality care for individuals navigating dementia and Alzheimer's. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 13, at 3 p.m. at 8170 Vineyard Parkway in Texas Township, adjacent to the existing community. The public is invited, and refreshments will follow.

"Vineyard Memory Care Community will provide a continuum of care for residents of Vineyard Assisted Living for those living with dementia or Alzheimer's," said Campus Administrator Seth Ganton. "We've seen the need in our community, and this expansion allows us to meet that need with the same level of heart, hands-on care, and excellence that defines Vineyard."

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Commissioners accept equalization report

PAW PAW - Van Buren County Commissioners on April 22, approved the county equalization report for real property of $6,193,344,515 and a cumulative total for personal property of $648,629,400.

The combined total of real and personal property of the cities and townships in Van Buren County is $6,841,973,915

In another area, the county has established a strategic facilities fund to address long-term facility needs in accordance with adopted budget policies. The policies require that funds transferred into or expended from the strategic facilities fund must be authorized by a resolution adopted by a roll call two-thirds vote of the full Board of Commissioners, and such funds must be used solely for strategic facility investments.

The county maintains a budgetary goal of preserving a 30 percent fund balance in the General Fund, and at the conclusion of the previous fiscal year's audit, the fund balance exceeded this threshold.

Finance recommended, and it is consistent with established fiscal policy, that $400,000 of the excess General Fund balance be transferred to the strategic facilities fund to align with the board's priority of planning for infrastructure improvements and long-term facility maintenance.

The transfer supports the county's commitment to proactive capital planning and ensures that funds are reserved for future facility improvements and infrastructure needs.

The Budget Stabilization Fund is governed by the Michigan Budget Stabilization Act which allows counties to establish and maintain a reserve fund to be used for operational needs during periods of revenue shortfalls or unanticipated expenditures.

In accordance with the county's fiscal policy, the Budget Stabilization Fund must maintain a minimum balance of five percent and no more than 20 percent of the most recent General Fund budget or the average of the last five adjusted budgets, whichever is less.

Fiscal Year 2024 marked the first instance since 2019 where a significant transfer ($715,000) was required to maintain compliance with the Budget Stabilization Act, bringing the fund to 7.5 percent of General Fund expenditures.

Finance recommended the proactive annual transfer strategy to avoid large one-time corrections in future years and maintain the fund within a target range of 7.5 percent to eight percent of General Fund expenditures.

The proposed transfer of $100,000 from the General Fund to the Budget Stabilization Fund aligns with these goals and ensures continued compliance with state law and prudent fiscal management practices.

Commissioners approved the purchase of a rescue/patrol boat and one replacement boat motor for an amount not to exceed $38,000 to be paid from Public Safety funds. The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office operates a marine patrol division responsible for patrolling and responding to incidents on the county's inland lakes. The current rescue/patrol boat has become unreliable and is in frequent need of repair, impacting the department's ability to provide timely and effective water-based emergency response. In addition to the need for a new vessel, a second operational boat within the department's fleet requires a replacement motor to remain fully functional and mission-ready.

Pushard Welding, a recipient of a Van Buren County Revolving Loan Fund loan, has experienced prolonged financial hardships stemming from the economic disruptions caused by the 2020 pandemic, which disproportionately affected their primary customer base within the hospitality industry. The business manufactures stainless steel kitchen equipment, furniture, and fixtures, and due to reduced industry demand and predatory financial dealings, has struggled to meet its debt obligations, resulting in significant operational and personnel changes.

Market One, under the direction of the Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), has collaborated with the county's legal counsel, Miller Johnson, to draft an amended loan agreement intended to provide Pushard Welding with more sustainable loan terms. The proposed amendment restructures the current principal balance of $36,177.61 into a new seven-year note at an interest rate of 4 percent, with the condition that if all scheduled payments are made, accrued interest in the amount of $4,302.11 (or the amount accrued at the time of closing) will be forgiven.

The EDC Board supported this amendment to preserve local business, stabilize loan repayment, and protect the county's investment.

The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office has identified various items of excess property that are no longer in use or cost-effective to repair, including equipment formerly used by the drain/work crew and several outdated computer monitors.

The majority of the equipment has been retained only for spare parts and is no longer functional or economically viable to maintain or refurbish. The county's IT Department has reviewed the computer monitors and determined they are too outdated for repurposing within county operations.

Commissioners approved the recommendation of the Sheriff's Office to dispose of these items through Biddergy, an online auction platform regularly used by the county for the public sale of obsolete or surplus property.

SECOND ANNUAL CHEERS FOR CHILDREN - WINE SOCIAL HOSTED BY SAFE HARBOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER TO HELP VAN BUREN CHILDREN VICTIMS OF ABUSE

WHAT: Fundraiser for Van Buren County's children victims of abuse through a casual, 21+ wine social. Tickets are $35. Live music and appetizers. To register, please visit: **www.safeharborcac.org/events/cheersforchildren.**

WHEN: Thursday, May 8, 6 to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Beeches Golf Course, South Haven, MI (Address 09601 68th St.)

WHO: All funds from this event stay in Van Buren County to support the children victims and prevention efforts in our county.

COST: $35/ticket earns you three drink tickets, heavy appetizers, live music of Mike Hatfield and being surrounded by like-minded people for an evening! To register, please visit: **www.safeharborcac.org/events/cheersforchildren.**

Cheers for Children - Wine Social is proudly sponsored by Whiteford Wealth Management, Inc., and Coldwell Banker Sneller Real Estate.

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ABOUT SAFE HARBOR:
Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center is a nationally accredited, nonprofit organization that provides children with hope and healing through an array of services at no cost to the victims or their families. From a child's initial disclosure to their last day of counseling, Safe Harbor guides children through their journey of healing.

Sixth grade class hosts salmon release and environmental event

On Wednesday, April 30, Paw Paw Middle School's (PPMS) entire sixth grade class released their salmon fry into the rapids of the Paw Paw River. From 9 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m., all 164 sixth grade students, teachers, volunteers and parent chaperones traveled to Paw Paw's Sunset Park Boat Launch on Maple Lake and released the salmon into the rapids below the dam. Moving from station to station, students also had the opportunity to learn from an expert line-up of environmental educators and community partners.
Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

On Wednesday, April 30, Paw Paw Middle School's (PPMS) entire sixth grade class released their salmon fry into the rapids of the Paw Paw River. It marked a bit-tersweet day as the students reluctantly said goodbye to the salmon fry they raised and nur-tured in a classroom aquarium over the last eight months.

From 9 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m., all 164 sixth grade students, teachers, volunteers and parent chaperones made their annual migration two miles north to Paw Paw's Sunset Park Boat Launch on Maple Lake and released the salmon into the rapids be-low the dam. Moving from station to station, students also had the opportunity to learn from an expert line-up of environmental educators and community partners.

For over a decade, this annual tradition has grown into a major environmental edu-cation event, thanks to event mastermind, Paw Paw Middle School science teacher Kevin Oles. As the main organizer, Oles and the other sixth grade science teachers have worked hard to attract over a dozen community education partners, who all have a vested interest in developing the next generation of responsible, engaged citizens who want to protect the environment. By fostering a love of nature, promoting sustainable practices, and providing experiences that build strong connections to nature and the outdoors, the hope is that students will gain a better understanding of the world around them and why it is important to preserve our natural resources.

The sixth-grade team expressed thanks to this year's environmental education part-ners for taking the time to unite with the community to build success. They include:

Andrew Strombeck, Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Russ Schipper, The Audubon Society of Kalamazoo

Dan Burton, Two Rivers Coalition

Conservation Officer Tyler Cole, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Colleen Forestieri and Jacob Diljack, Van Buren Conservation District

South Haven Steelheaders Sport Fishing Association

Village of Paw Paw

Nic Rand, Bassmaster Opens pro angler sponsored by Skeeter Boats and Toyota

Marie Solum, Michigan Geologic Survey

Kimi Baker, Kalamazoo Bee Club

Jessica Hagan, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones

Katie Sims, La Dulse Vita in Allendale

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Annual Member Exhibition to open at SH Center for Arts

ARTIST KATRINA JONES MAY 2025

By James Windell

Every year for the past 75 years, the South Haven Center for the Arts has invited its members to submit their art work for a member exhibition. This year is no exception.

The theme for this year's member exhibition, which opens on May 9, 2025, is "Water Ways: Reflect and Connect." Artist members have been invited to submit up to two works in any medium for the show.

According to the Center for the Arts Executive Director, Kerry Hagy, there will be more than 85 works of art in the show. "It's actually the way the Center started 76 years ago," Hagy says. "The Center in the beginning was a place for a group of artists to do an annual member exhibition. However, that has evolved over time."

Speaking about the theme for this year's exhibition, Hagy notes that "Every year we do a theme because it makes it more accessible to our audience. People can come in and see how the artists relate to the theme."

Hagy added that each artist will view the theme in a unique way. "It's always different," she says. "The theme can be broadly conceptualized, and it doesn't necessarily have to be an image of water. It can be related to the idea of reflecting. The work doesn't have to be literal. However, each artist will provide a statement of how they think their piece relates to the theme and that statement will be on wall next to the work."

There will be an opening reception on Friday, May 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm where the public can view the art and meet the artists. Wine and hors d'oeuvers will be served.

Hagy points out that South Haven is blessed with a great number of talented artists. "It's going to be a really great show," she says. "There will be many different types of medium, including oil paintings, watercolors, textiles, monoprints, glass, photography and stoneware."

Among the member artists who will be exhibiting their work will be sculptor Kathy Kreager, painter David Baker, and painter Linda Valentino Walker.

The 76th Annual Members Exhibition runs from May 10 to June 14, 2025 at the South Haven Center for the Arts, 600 Phoenix Street. Gallert hours are 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 11:00 am to 6:00 pm on Thursday. For more information, visit the Center for the Arts website at info@southhavenarts.org

OBITUARIES

William Owen

Born July 26, 1941 - Passed January 15, 2025

On July 26, 1941 Owen and Jean Marks brought a new life into their world. They named him William Owen and he joined two sisters, Beverly Jean and Bettylou. A few years later Owen and Jean were surprised with twins, a son, Joseph, and a daughter, JoAnne, completing the Marks family.

Billy, as he was called, thrived in a home that encouraged his interests. He loved playing all games and excelled at every physical endeavor. His innate abilities and love of competition only increased as he matured. When he was of middle school age, he played baseball and basketball with the high school kids. His favorite sport was the one in season. His father supported his love of sports by constructing a track on the family-owned airport since the school didn't have one and Bill wanted to run. High school brought more opportunities to participate in sports year round, and he did. Four years of football, basketball, track, and baseball fostered many wonderful memories as Bill earned 15 varsity letters.

Upon graduation, he played professional baseball in the Washington Senators farm system. He really enjoyed spending his days with guys that loved the game as much as he did but, his career was cut short when he suffered an injury that turned serious and sent him home on crutches.

Next he enrolled at Western Michigan University to earn a degree in Education with a minor in coaching. While at WMU, he was set up on a blind date by mutual friends and met Nancy. The pair married in 1964 and celebrated 60 years together last August. Their son William Douglas (Chip) was born in 1971 and their daughter Amanda Lynn in 1973.

Bill enjoyed a 36 year long commitment to teaching and coaching. Along the way he taught everything from Michigan History to Advanced Mechanical Drafting. He added Driver's Education as a sidelight and of course he coached -football, basketball, wrestling, track, softball, golf, and baseball. During the summers, he coached Chip's baseball teams too. He never questioned how much he was making per hour. That wasn't why he was doing it. His teams won conference championships, received regional honors, and he was inducted into the Lawton Blue Devil Hall of Fame. He appreciated the accolades, but the competition and the kids were his main concern.

Shortly after he retired, his first grandson, Owen was born and two years later, Will arrived. Having grandsons changed his life. Now winters and springs were spent in Texas enjoying the time spent with his boys. He loved to play games with them, teach them skills, watch them participate in sports, and just be Grandpa. Bill truly valued his close relationship with his grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, JoAnne. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, son Chip, daughter Amanda and son-in-law Mike Trimble, grandsons Owen and Will Trimble, sister and brother-in-law Beverly and Ted Tyler, sister Bettylou Wragg, brother and sister-in-law Joe and Sue Marks, sister-in-law Katherine Yoder, uncle Don Marks and several cousins, nephews and nieces.

A Memorial Gathering is scheduled for May 24, 2025 at his home at 1147 Maynard Rd, Portland, MI. All who knew Bill and want to join us as we remember and celebrate his life are welcome. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to either the Pewamo Westphalia Athletic fund (envelopes available at the gathering) or to the Lawton Blue Devil Athletic fund c/o Lawton Athletic Boosters, PO Box 39, Lawton, MI 49065 or Venmo @LawtonAthleticBoosters.

Archie Dennis Davies

Archie Dennis Davies, 82, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully with his wife by his side on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at his home in Paw Paw. He was born Nov. 1, 1942, in Warren, Michigan, the son of Archibald Davies and Emma Caroline (Werth) Davies. He was the youngest of seven children.

He graduated from Warren South High School and attended Western Michigan University, Cooley Law School and University of Michigan. Dennis enlisted in the United States Coast Guard on June 26, 1960, and worked his way up to Master Chief. He was the first Yeoman Chief to ever hold the title of Officer in Charge of a Lifeboat Search and Rescue Station in the Coast Guard. He was still active in the USCG reserves for many years after his discharge.

Dennis worked for many years as a Michigan State Police trooper and was an active member in the State Police Association and MSP Troopers Association. Archie's faith was very important to him, and he was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Paw Paw, and Lawrence United Methodist Church. Dennis was a member of the Paw Paw Lions Club, American Legion, FOP Lodge and MSSFA.

Dennis was beloved by all who knew him. He was known for his sense of humor and the tall tales he would spin. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, reading, traveling, and helping people in need. He was generous, loving and will be missed greatly by everyone who had the honor of having him in their life. He cherished his family, his pets, and his many good friends.

Dennis leaves behind his wife, Linda, to whom he was married for 23 years, his daughter, Sherry (late son-in-law, Mitch) Patten, son, Mike (Dawn) Davies, daughter, Laura (Don) Angell, stepdaughters, Lori Merchant, Dana (late son-in-law, Tim) Ramsey, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Though Dennis will be missed every day, those whose lives he touched will carry his memory in their heart forever and know that Dennis is now doing what he loved the most, fishing on a still morning lake with his beloved dog, Katie, watching the sun rise.

Cremation has taken place. Graveside services for Dennis will be held Saturday, June 14, at 11 a.m. at Prairie Home Cemetery, Richland.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

Area Church Services

PAW PAW

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27503 CR 375
Pastor Len Schoenherr
668-2811 • www.almenaumc.com
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
(Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.

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COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

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FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search:
"Buddy Turner"

••••

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays
in person or online at -
www.pawpawpres.com or
www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

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PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook &
YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
657-7727 • 420 W. Michigan Ave.
Pastor Dan Phillips
SUNDAY Service: 10:00 am

••••

RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream
worship

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Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

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ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses
Consult Bulletin

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School: 657-5921
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www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
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Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
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Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico |
Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514/ (269) 993-6727

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DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
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Pastor Jack Shanley
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WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
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Bilingual
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Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
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Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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Pastor Ashlei Horn
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319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
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TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

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church/
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And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.•

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56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

••••

ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312 • www.stjohnbosco.com
SUNDAY Mass - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
SATURDAY 4 p.m.

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

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NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
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Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
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VIEWPOINT

Absent-minded journalist strikes again

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Some people call me absent-minded, others call me addle-headed. Me, I just blame it on being left-handed.

Last week, I left my briefcase in a rental car. Its contents were my valuable laptop, scads of paperwork and files and some cash.

Let me explain. I didn't like the first rental car I picked out- too many miles. But in the process of checking out the car, I threw my briefcase in the backseat. When I went to a second car, which I did like, I forgot my briefcase, that is until I was about 25 miles away from the rental car place. When I realized it wasn't with me, I did a u-turn praying that no one had rented the car I first looked at.

As luck would have it my briefcase was right where I had left it. Whew, I had dodged a catastrophe.

Like father like son so the saying goes, when we returned the rental car a week later, I received a call as I was boarding my plane. Umm, sir we have a wallet that belongs to a Jordan Wilcox, that was left in your rental car. You can't be serious I thought, but they were, and my son had to high-tail it back to the rental agency and retrieve his wallet, complete with all credit cards and cash. Again, how lucky can we be?

My forgetfulness is not a recent phenomenon. A few years back I lost my credit card in the parking lot of the same rental agency. A few years before that I left my credit card on a plane while traveling to Florida. The wonderful flight attendants at the airline were kind enough to mail it to me.

A few years before that, I somehow managed to drop a set of keys, including my car keys down a manhole in downtown Hamtramck. At the time I owned the newspaper in that town and hurriedly left my office to reach my car which was parked in a lot across the street.

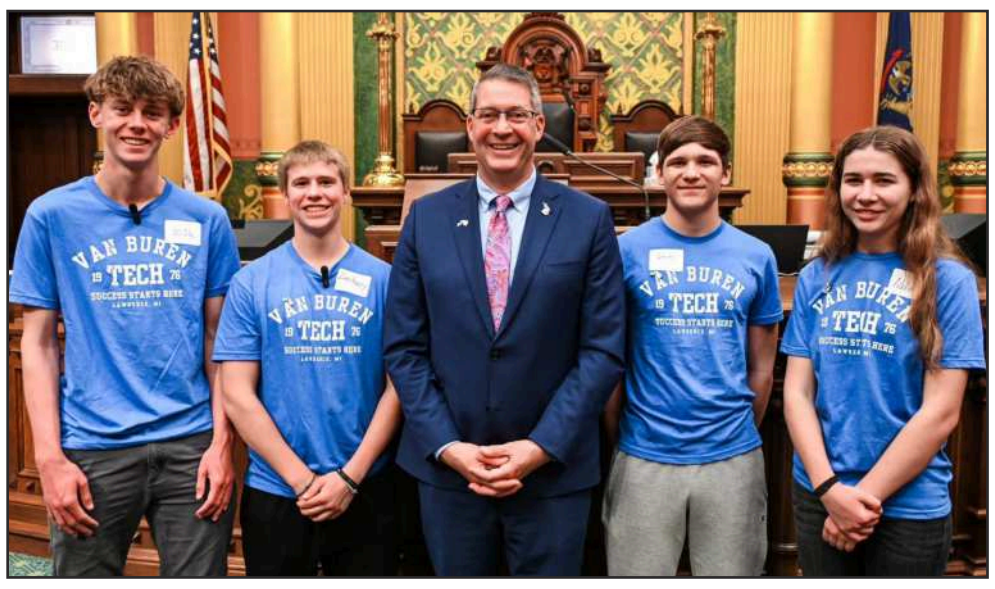
Unfortunately, my keys fell out of my jacket pocket as I crossed a manhole cover. Down they went. I pulled off the heavy cover and peered down the hole. I couldn't see much of anything, but I feared there was probably a few inches of settled water and maybe a rat or two.

I retrieved a flashlight from the office and peered again. No live animals but there was an inch or two of water. Now the question became, how do I retrieve the keys?

My son came up with a novel idea. Why not use a magnet? It sounded like it might work, so we went to the hardware store and bought the biggest magnet we could find. It was almost 4 inches in diameter. We hooked it to a piece of string and lowered it into the manhole. And by golly after a few attempts we had the keys.

Apparently I didn't learn my lesson, because I continue to leave important items behind. Maybe I have too many things on my mind, or I'm too in a hurry to get where I need to be, or I'm just addle-headed.

Tech students showcase Innovation at Michigan State Capitol



LAWRENCE - Students from Van Buren Tech's (VBT) Engineering and Architectural Design (EAD) program recently participated in the Michigan Career and Technical Education (CTE) Showcase, held at the State Capitol in Lansing.

Accompanied by EAD instructor Joshua Bridges and VBT's CTE Director Robert Smith, students had the opportunity to present their work alongside CTE peers from across the state, engaging with legislators and showcasing how CTE programs deliver high-impact, hands-on, and technology-driven experiences that prepare students for both college and career success.

The Capitol visit included a special tour of the historic building, highlighted by a private session in the House Chamber, hosted by Michigan State Representative Tom Kunse.

Smith expressed support for the event, saying that opportunities like this are vital for raising awareness about the impact of CTE.

Van Buren Tech continues to serve as a leader in CTE, offering students from across Van Buren County access to cutting-edge programming in engineering, architecture, healthcare, agriculture, and more.

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Ribbon cutting held for new Lawton business

A ribbon cutting marking the grand opening of the Decatur Area Waste and Recycling Center was held Tuesday, April 29, n Decatur. In attendance, there were representatives of Decatur and Hamilton townships, Village of Decatur, and the Van Buren Conservation District. Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Publisher needs to encourage unity

Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I just read your op-ed article in the 5-1-25 South Haven Beacon. I want to thank you for launching your newspaper in South Haven. Your paper has a good "feel" to it Having said that, I need to say that I am a long-time fan of the South Haven Tribune, too. I don't know anything about what's going on inside print journalism these days. From the outside, I can see that newspapers and magazines are struggling to stay afloat. I can see that your three publications are trying to cover what of interest is going on in Van Buren county. I see that you're offering printing services. Diversification seems to be the name of the game in businesses these days. And your color ads get people's attention. I'm sure that you and your staff work hard, and it looks like you're finding success as well as getting useful information out to readers. Well done!

The real reason I'm writing is to take issue with some of your statements in your editorial about college administrators. You're ticked at the cost of higher education and the number of administrators you claim exist at colleges & universities. It's hard to argue with those statements, if they're true. The thing that really breaks my heart is that you, as a publisher, believe that the "cost" of attending college and graduating with useful and important skills & credentials is overshadowed by other factors. Please read on, and consider my point of view.

I am a 66-year-old person. I attended both public and private schools from age 4-17. I have attended four additional institutions of higher learning at different ages. I played college golf. I went back to college for a master's degree at age 52 and had a second career. I'm retired now, and doing volunteer work in the public schools.

Let's discuss the statements you made in your editorial. You stated that universities and colleges have added hundreds of new administrators to their payroll. First, it's important to define who is being counted as an administrator. At Michigan State University, for example, the amount of research done in the engineering department and supported by grants has resulted in the staff size growing by a factor of 4 or 5 since the late 1970s.That research is driving investment and job growth in all kinds of fields. Counting administrators is only meaningful if we know who is counted as an administrator.

It appears that it's true, according to Forbes, that there are, overall, a large number of administrators at American colleges and universities. If you define an administrator as someone who is responsible for running a business or organization, it seems that faculty and support staff duties overlap with administrative duties regularly. So which administrators should be released from their jobs, and which ones should stay? And who has the power to decide that? I kind of like the way South Haven Public Schools are organized. Maybe some of Michigan's public schools are good models of the frugality that you admire. Perhaps if more universities were required to balance their overall staff, they would run better and tuition costs would stabilize. Rhetorically, how do we add practical-thinking, Midwest-grown humans to the boards of trustees at places like Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, Lake Michigan College and Central Michigan University? Who's willing to take on that political battle?

What kind of statement is, "College enrollment is decreasing, you didn't know." - ? Is that meant to be an intentional insult to your readers' intelligence? If it was, please stop it. It's beneath you.

I have a daughter who is a professor at the University of South Carolina. When she entered her field, she was incredulous that there was such a small body of research about literacy within bilingual populations in the U.S. I'm hoping you know that grants, which are the life-blood of research, are data-driven. My daughter Lisa opened a language lab, run by one minority female "administrator." That lab collects data, educates college students, parents and children, tests and diagnoses physical and other conditions in children, teaches local school districts best practices related to teaching reading and identifying barriers to learning. They also spend non-paid time helping parents, who sometimes don't speak English well, to fill out forms related to health care, schools, insurance, you name it. Do you really think that all of this good work could happen without a competent administrator?

Mr. Wilcox, I hope you'll start using your editorial platform for more than just rants. Use it to educate and persuade readers about things that matter. Talk about food insecurity, the economy, housing, the challenges of providing and obtaining medical care, social and cultural needs and the desperate need, for heaven's sake, for really good public transportation in our county. Please don't lead your readers to believe that they should get mad at higher learning and not go to college or trade school. In case you haven't noticed, we are all "in this together" regardless of our political party affiliations, religious beliefs and socio-economic positions. Does your "alarm" generate some light, or just heat?

Please start doing all the good you can for as long as you are on this earth. Choose your battles wisely, and utilize your power as a publisher to encourage unity, and to encourage people to gain knowledge and to value wisdom. We all need to become discerning in a very challenging world. Please set that example for all of us to follow. We will respect you for it. Your well-chosen words could encourage readers to get out there and do what they can to make the world better, not to blame everyone and no one for what is wrong. I'm counting on you, and those who will come after you in your business, to lead the way.

Sincerely,

Patricia Fitton

VFW hosts attorney general candidate

Dear Editor:

Kevin Kijewski is a fearless attorney who is running for Attorney General in Michigan. He is a bold and unapologetic Rule of Law advocate who has stepped up to lead the effort to reclaim our state government from the radical overreach of the Whitmer administration.

As our next Attorney General, Kevin will defend small businesses from unconstitutional lockdowns, parents from woke ideologies, and Michiganders from Dana Nessel's political persecutions.

Kevin understands what it takes to fight for liberty and win, I invite you to come and hear what he has to say on Saturday, May 31st.

Restoring the Rule of Law with Attorney General Candidate Kevin Kijewski
Saturday, May 31
Social Hour 5 pm
Dinner 6 pm
Program 7 pm
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
560 N PHELPS ST, DECATUR, MI 49045
More information can be found here:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vanburen-county-gop-lincoln-day-dinner-tickets-1339078502849?aff=oddtdtcreator

Ronald Reisterer

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SPORTS

Paw Paw baseball sweeps Sturgis

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw'sbaseball team enjoyed a sweep over Sturgis on Friday.

The Red Wolves won game No. 1 10-0. In Game 1 Bryn Carlsen picked up the victory on the mound going 5 dominant innings, allowing 0 ER, 2 hits, and 7 's. Preston Criger pitched a scoreless last inning with 1 K.

Leading the hit parade was Landon Buhl, Maverick Johnson, and Andrew Lehto. Landon went 2-3 with a monster HR, 2 RBIs, BB, and 3 SBs. Maverick Johnson went 2-3 with a BB. Andrew Lehto stayed hot going 2-3 with a BB. Carson DeYoung added a single, 4 RBIs, and a BB. Hayden Criger went 1-3 with an RBI, BB, and SB. Gunnar Goodelladded a single and an RBI, while Caden hit a deep triple. Ryan chipped in with a hit and 2 BB.

In Game No. 2 the Red Wolves scored early and held on for a 4-2 victory. Remi Dempsey picked up another win by going 5 innings, allowed 2 ER, 4 hits, and 6 Ks. Caden Bowen picked up the save going 2 scoreless innings that included 6 Ks. Andrew Lehto, Caden Bown, and Landon Buhl picked up the only hits in the game. Andrew Lehto was 1-2 with a BB. Caden was 1-3 with a SB. Landon Buhl was 1-3 with 2 SB's. The Red Wolves record now stands at 16-5 (7-2 in Conference).

Upcoming games:
May 6th DH at Otsego
May 8th DH at home against Coloma (Youth Appreciation NIght)

On April 29th, varsity baseball traveled to Vicksburg for a conference DH on Tuesday. In a wildest gameRed Wolves fell 15-13. The game was a back and forth affair until the bottom of the sixth when the Bulldogs scored two to secure the victory.

Ryan, Landon, Andrew, and Caden led the offense. Ryan was 2-3, SB, 4 R, 2 BB. Landon went 1-5 with a bases loaded clearing double with 3 RBIs. Andrew was 2-4, 4 RBI's, BB, and R. Caden was 1-3 with 3 RBIs, SB, 2 BB, and 2 R. Due to the length of the first game, game No. 2 will be rescheduled for a later date.

South Haven softball wins two

By John Raffel
Correspondent

M. Verseput was dominant in the circle, as the pitcher rang up 11 strikeouts in South Haven HS Var. Softball's 11-4 victory over Watervliet on Tuesday of last wee. Verseput allowed five hits and four runs over seven innings while walking one.

G. Strebeck collected three hits in four at bats in the win. Strebeck tripled in the third inning, doubled in the first inning, and singled in the fourth inning.

South Haven got on the board in the top of the first inning after Verseput singled down the right field line, and Strebeck doubled to center field, each scoring one run.

South Haven scored seven runs on five hits in the top of the third inning. Strebeck tripled, scoring two runs, R. Hahn drew a walk, scoring one run, an error scored one run, J. Wiley hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run, A. Dekoning singled, scoring one run, and M. Duda tripled, scoring one run.

Kenzy Robards took the loss for Watervliet . The right-handed pitcher went four innings, allowing two runs on three hits, striking out one and walking three. Emma Kirksey led things off in the circle for Watervliet Panthers-Varsity. The hurler allowed zero hits and one run over one-third of an inning, striking out none and walking one.

South Haven tallied 10 hits in the game. Duda and Verseput each collected multiple hits for South Haven HS Var. Softball. South Haven HS Var. Softball had patience at the plate, amassing seven walks for the game. Hahn and Dekoning led the team with two free passes each. Strebeck stole two bases. South Haven stole four bases in the game.

Akira Hill led Watervliet Panthers-Varsity with two hits in four at bats from the leadoff position. Ava Thmas led Watervliet Panthers-Varsity with two runs batted in.

J. Wiley collected three hits in three at bats, as South Haven Softball defeated Watervliet Panthers-Varsity 17-0 on Tuesday in the second game. Wiley doubled in the first inning, singled in the fourth inning, and singled in the third inning.

South Haven won thanks in part to nine runs in the fourth inning. E. Bos grounded out, scoring two runs, Wiley singled, scoring one run, A. Dekoning singled, scoring one run, G. Meyer singled, scoring one run, M. Verseput singled, scoring one run, an error scored two runs, and G. Strebeck singled, scoring one run.

South Haven jumped out to the lead in the top of the first inning after M Dotson singled, scoring three runs, S. Grieves laid down a sacrifice bunt, scoring one run, and Wiley doubled, scoring two runs.

South Haven added to their early lead in the top of the third inning after Watervliet Panthers-Varsity committed an error, and Dekoning doubled down the left field line, each scoring one run.

Verseput earned the win for South Haven . The starting pitcher surrendered one hit and zero runs over four innings, striking out seven and walking none. Kenzy Robards took the loss for Watervliet Panthers-Varsity. The reliever went three innings, giving up 11 runs (six earned) on 10 hits, striking out three and walking three. Emma Kirksey stepped in the circle first for Watervliet Panthers-Varsity. The right-handed pitcher gave up four hits and six runs over one inning, striking out none and walking four.

South Haven accumulated 14 hits in the game. Wiley and Dekoning each collected three hits for South Haven HS Var. Softball. Verseput collected two hits for South Haven HS Var. Softball in three at bats. Strebeck paced South Haven HS Var. Softball with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, piling up seven walks for the game. South Haven HS Var. Softball were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Dotson had the most chances in the field with seven.

Kirksey led Watervliet Panthers-Varsity with one hit in two at bats.

Gobles improves to 5-1 in boys track

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Cole Ringel, Jonas Salefske, Hunter Piper, Levi Collins

4 x 100m relay team state bound, Nathan Ray, Maximus Sager, Steven Juarez, and Mason Mansfield

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers competed this last week hosting dual meets with Allegan and Watervliet on Monday and then traveling to Centreville for the annual MITCA scored Centreville Invitational.

The boys fell to Allegan 66-69 and defeated Watervliet 97-34 on Monday. It was a close meet all the way against Allegan. Gobles track and field is 5-1 in the dual meets.

The following team awards went to the following people for their efforts. For the PR award Jack Geiger. He improved his discus by more than 14 feet.

"Thanks to the instruction of assistant coach Stacey Austin, Jack has been able to improve both shot put and discus in his senior season," Gobles coach Marc Kline said. "The MVP award went to Mason Mansfield as he won all of the events he participated in Monday evening setting a PR in the 100m dash at 11.28. The Tough as Nails award went to Max Sager, who fell in the hurdles, got himself back up and finished strong. The Diamond award went to Jonas Salefske for dropping a couple of quality 400s.

Saturday the Tigers traveled to Centreville on Saturday, May 3, and came away with a third place finish with 847 points behind invitational host and winner Centreville (1076 points) and SAC rival Constantine (933 points). The meet awards went to the following. The PR award went to Nathan Ray for his 400m time 53.46. Mason Mansfield was MVP for winning 100, 200 and he also qualified for the MHSAA state meet in the 200 with a time of 22.97. Levi Collins was Tough as Nails as he raced in the 4x800m run, 1600m and 3200m runs. The Diamond award went to Hunter Piper for competing with quality in a variety of events.

The 4 x 800m relay team of Jonas Salefske, Cole Ringel, Levi Collins, Hunter Piper, set a season Record with a 9:27.31 and placed 5th. The Boys 4 x 100m relay team of Nathan Ray, Max Sager, Steven Juarez, and Mason Mansfield early qualified for the MHSAA state with a time of 44.98.

Mattawan baseball defeated Franklin

By John Raffel
Corrrespondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan's baseball team defeated Franklin on Saturday 8-0.

Mattawan's winning pitcher was Brody Houseman who gave up one hit and zero runs over three innings, striking out four and walking none.

Mattawan had 13 hits. Troy Scarff, Patrick Dougherty and Colby Grover had two hits apiece for Mattawan.

The Wildcats defensively did not commit an error.

Also on Saturday, Mattawan tied the Western International varsty Cowboys 2-2. Liam Walsh was the starter for Mattawan allowing three hits and two runs over seven innings, striking out seven and walking none.

Tyler Stratton had one run batted in. Brody Houseman led Mattawan with two hits in three at bats. Mattawan was swept by Gull lake 4-1 and 6-5 on Thursday May 1.

Kaden Jominey took the loss for Mattawan going five innings and allowing three runs on five hits striking out four and walking two Brody Houseman was 1-for-2 at the plate.

Mattawan tried to come back from a 6-0 deficit in the second game. Nathan Fowler pitched three innings in relief for Mattawan. He allowed three hits and one run. Max Vanantwerp took the pitching loss in two innings of work.

Troy Scarff had two RBIs and two hits for the Wildcats. Preston Shackelford had two RBIs.

Bangor soccer blanked

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — The Bangor varsity girls soccer team lost 3-0 on May 3 at Brandywine.

Soxeley Calderon made six saves

"Our team played well together. As a young team, we're focused on growth and especially improving our offensive game."

The next game is at home against Hartford at 6:30 PM.

Conference record: 1-3-1; Overall record: 1-9-1.

On Wednesday (April 30), the Bangor Vikings faced off against the Bloomingdale Cardinals in a closely contested soccer match which ended in a 1-1 tie. Bloomingdale took the lead first, converting a corner kick to make the score 1-0 in the first half. Despite being behind at halftime, the Vikings came out strong in the second half, pushing hard for an equalizer.

Their efforts were rewarded with under five minutes remaining when goalkeeper Solexey Calderon delivered a stunning free-kick from outside the penalty box, leveling the score. Calderon also made an impressive 10 saves, keeping the Vikings competitive throughout the match.

Final Score: Bangor 1, Bloomingdale 1.

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South Haven tennis falls

By John Raffel
Corrrespondent

South Haven fell to Kalamazoo Christian 8-0 in girls tennis last week.

Singles:
No. 1 - Kennedy Price, Kalamazoo Christian def. Olivia Emenhiser, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-0
No. 2 - Katie Meints, Kalamazoo Christian def. Harley Nail, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-0
No. 3 - Scarlett Hindbaugh, Kalamazoo Christian def. Addy Cook, South Haven, 6-1 , 6-0
No. 4 - Aidan Ward, Kalamazoo Christian def. Violet Burgoyne, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-1

Doubles:
No. 1 - Piper Scarlett, Kalamazoo Christian - Bevin Maskill, Kalamazoo Christian def. Evani Flores, South Haven - Elena Cavadas, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-0
No. 2 - Teagan Randall, Kalamazoo Christian - Leah Smith, Kalamazoo Christian def. Adeleida Arvizu, South Haven - Sarah Diaz-Salinas, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-0
No. 4 - Ava Degroot, Kalamazoo Christian - Kennedy Gernaat, Kalamazoo Christian def. Leah Becker, South Haven - Regan Nail, South Haven, 6-1 , 6-1;
No. 3 - Reese Rigby, Kalamazoo Christian - Cora DeGroot, Kalamazoo Christian def. Mireya Arvizu, South Haven - Sheyla Gonzalez, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-2 .

Gobles track girls gain two wins

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles girls track team hosted a double dual with Allegan and Watervliet on April 28 and came away with victories over both of the guest schools, defeating Allegan 115-18 and Watervliet 98-35.

This improved their dual meet record to 6-0.

"The tuff as nails awards was given to freshman Bella Laughlin for running the 400 meter dash," coach Andrew Wood said. "The diamond award went to Elizabeth Smith for running the 4x400 meter relay "Like a Boss" as her teammates put it. Lillie Burke earned the PR award by getting a 14 foot improvement in her discus throw.

"The MVP went to Sasha Doll for getting first place in all of her events: High Jump, 100 hurdles and also running the 4x400 for the first time. Zoie Wood joined her fellow seniors in running new events for the first time by trying the 300 hurdles and placing fourth."

Overall the team set 22 PRs and 4 SRs on Monday.

Saturday May 3, Gobles Traveled to Centerville for their MITCA Team Scored invitational.

The Lady Tigers returned home as meet Champions with a score of 1061 with the host school from Centerville in second with 936. It was a great day and overall several athletes earned team awards from their squad leaders.

The PR award went to Ava Bair for her long jump. The Diamond Award went to Lilly Heintzman for stepping up and filling in to run an 800.

"The tuff as nails award was given to Martina Pucello for running the 800 and 1600 and smiling almost the entire time," coach Andrew Wood said. "Honorable mention went out to Freedom Morris for running the 100 Meter High Hurdles for the first time and placing in the top 10. The MVP award went to Daisy Estrada for earning 1st place in all of her events and setting 2 individual meet records and one relay record. Daisy was also voted on by the opposing coaches as the Female athlete of the meet.

"The AD said afterwards that she had never seen such a dominant performance by one athlete and doesn't ever remember that many meet records being broken in one day. All four of her events met the EQ standard which qualifies her to run them at the state meet at the end of the month. In addition to the meet records, she also set another school record in the 300 hurdles with a time of 46.87.

The Gobles Lady Tigers returned home as meet Champions with a score of 1061 with the host school from Centreville in second with 936

Senior Zoie Wood trying hurdles for the first time.'

Sasha Doll & Liz Woodard after their first ever 4x400 relay.

Lawrence girls fall to Hartford

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The Hartford Huskies swept the Lawrence Tigers at home last week.

Scores were not available.

For the Tigers, Leslie Reed, Hailey Camp, and Yuridia San Juan led at the plate with 2 hits each. Evelyn Waite also earned a hit. Hailey Camp struck out 12 Huskies on the night and Leslie Reed struck out one. Kaylin Leyva was key for the Tiger defense at short stop with 4 put outs and 1 assist.

The next games were play on Monday at home against Bangor which won 21-0, 11-0.

In the 11-0 win Isabelle Horvath fanned 14 batters and allowed one hit and zero runs over five innings while walkng one.

Haily Camp took the loss for Lawrence. Horvath, Alexi Wisnewski, Emily Wisniewskiand Carolyn McCoy had two his apiece. Emily Wisniewski had three RBIs.

In the second game, Carley McCoy had three hits for Bangor, which scored 19 runs on five hits in the top of the third inning.

Horvath was the winning pitcher. She surrendered zero hbits and zero runs over three innings stricking out eight and walking none.

Leslie Reed took the loss for Lawrence. Bangor had 11 hits Aliya Le had three runs batted in. Horvath, Wisniewski and Josephine Snyder had multiple hits.

Lawrence track team shines

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — The Tigers delivered a strong performance at the Southwest 10 Conference meet, competing fiercely against Centreville, Comstock, and Bloomingdale. The team showcased standout efforts across all events, highlighted by numerous personal records (PRs) and impressive individual achievements.

Aurora McQueen – 1st (3200m), 2nd (1600m), 3rd (800m)
Hailey Camp - 1st (Long Jump)
Kelsey Harroun – 3rd (200m) 5th (Long Jump)
Leslie Reed – 5th (100m)
Kacey Reyes – 5th (400m)
Alexa Strauch – 4th (100m Hurdles), 3rd (300m Hurdles)
Carolina Mancera – 1st (Discus)
Evelyn Waite – 5th (Discus)
4x100 Relay – 3rd Place
Hailey Camp
Kaylin Leyva
Kelsey Harroun
Leslie Reed
4x200 Relay – 2nd Place
Hailey Camp
Kelsey Harroun
Carolina Mancera
Leslie Reed
4x400 Relay – 1st Place
Hailey Camp
Carolina Mancera
Kaylin Leyva
Kacey Reyes
Dillon Simpson – 1st (High Jump), 5th (Discus)
Alexander Gardner – 2nd (Shot Put)
Gabe Zapata- 5th (3200m)

South Haven baseball sweeps Fennville

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's baseball team improved to 9-5 on Monday with 15-0 and 17-0 wins over Fennville.

Max Verseput earned the win for South Haven in the first game. He gave up zero hits and zero runs over two innings striking out six snd walking none. Ryan Kozlik pitched two innings of zero run ball for Southaven in relief. He surrendered zero hits striking out four and walking three.

South Haven had nine hits.

Verseput, Charlie Morse and Isaac Chalupa had two hits apiece. Morse had two RBIs.

In the second game, Morse was the winning pitcher for South Haven, allowing zero hit nd zero runs over two innings, striking out five and walking none. Chalupa pitched one inning no-run ball for South Haven, giving up no his and striking out two.

The Rams had 11 hits. Chalupa had three hits and, along with Elijah Eddy, stole multiple bases. Verseput, Eddy and Charlie Hiatt drove home two runs apiece.

South Haven split a doublehead with Watervliet on the road on April 29, losing the first game 3-2 and winning the second 9-4.

In the opener, Verseput took the loss for South Haven going 6.2 innings and allowing three runs on six hits;

Ryan Kozlik, Jason Schneider, Verseput, Eddy and Morse had one hit each.

Morse had three hits in five at bats for South Haven. Morse was the winning pitcher. He gave under three hits and four runs over four innings. Eddy and Jacob Bosma both had two hits.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Lawton will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of Village Hall, 125 S. Main St., on the application from Lester Andrasy regarding his property located at 200 S. Nursery St., in the Village of Lawton, Michigan (Parcel # 80-45-100-032-00).

The application is for a variance on the garage height to be 16 ft 4 inches, where allowed height is to be less than 14 feet tall. The applicable Village of Lawton Ordinance section and provisions are: Zoning Ordinance Section 6.04—Building Height Measurements and Exceptions. The application and related materials can be reviewed or purchased at the Village of Lawton Clerk's Office at 125 S. Main St. Lawton, MI 49065 during Business Hours Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm, or by contacting office staff at (269)624-6407.

All interested parties are invited to attend and present comments on the requested variance. Written comments concerning the variance request may be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals by Friday, May 23, 2025 by mail addressed to: Village of Lawton, PO Box 367, Lawton, MI 49065 or by email to clerk@lawtonmi.org.

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk
Village of Lawton

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Tuesday, May 13
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
ADULTS: Heartbreak Book Club
Love, Lists, and Fancy Ships by Sarah Grunder Ruiz
Wednesday, May 14
6 pm-7 pm
CHILDREN: Sticky Sandcastles
Friday, May 16
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Saturday, May 17
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PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025- -DE • Judge
Estate of LORA DAR BANDURSKI, DECEASED
Date of Birth: MARCH 26,1957

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lora Dar Bandurski, died February 24,2024 (02/24/2024).

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Stacia Evans**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 5, 2025

Attorney:
John R. Colip P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915
Personal Representative:
Stacia Evans
66793 Ellen Road
Dowagiac, MI 49047
269-845-2022

State of Michigan
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1075-DE • Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of BARBARA M. SPRINGER, DECEASED

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Barbara M. Springer, died January 8, 2022 (01/08/2022).

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Kenneth B. Springer**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 5, 2025

Attorney:
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Christopher N. Moraitis P87052
181 West Michigan Ave.,
Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan is accepting letters of interest to fill one (1) vacancy on the Village Council, term ending November 2026, at which time the appointed member may run for election to a two-year term ending in 2028.

All interested parties are asked to submit a letter of interest along with your qualifications to the Village office or by E-mail. Village Charter states you must be a Village resident for at least one year and have no felony record. Meetings are conducted on the second and fourth Monday of each month and each member must also serve on committees scheduled at other times.

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128
offices@mattawanmi.com

Must be Received by May 12, 2025
Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 25-04

VILLAGE OF PAW PAW, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN OVERNIGHT CAMPING ORDINANCE

An ordinance to further the public health, peace, safety and environmental quality of the Village of Paw Paw by the prevention, reduction or elimination of overnight camping on public or private property in certain areas within the Village of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan, to repeal any conflicting ordinances, to provide penalties for the violation thereof; and, an effective date.

VILLAGE OF PAW PAW VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

SECTION 1- AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV – OFFENSE AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE

This section amends Article IV of the Village of Paw Paw Code of Ordinances, titled, "Offenses Against Public Peace" to add new section 20-25, titled, "Overnight Camping Ordinance" and reads as follows:

Section 20-25. Overnight Camping.

a. It is unlawful for any person to camp in or upon any Village sidewalk, street, alley, lane, park, public-right-of-way or any other property public or private located in the Village of Paw Paw, unless the person is camping in a licensed campground or on State of Michigan or United States Forest Service property designated for camping by either the State of Michigan or the United States Forest Service, or on Forestry property within the Village.
b. Definitions: The following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended:
   To camp: means to set up or to remain in or at a campsite.
   Campsite: means any place where any bedding, sleeping bag or other sleeping matter is placed, established or maintained, whether or not such place incorporates the use of any tent, lean-to, shack or other structure, or any vehicle or part thereof
c. Persons who are camping, on property owned by them, and such camping is incidental to the property's use as a single-family residence, shall camp no longer than two (2) weeks.
d. No person shall be convicted of violating this Ordinance unless such person shall continue to camp for more than 30 minutes after receiving a warning to leave. Such warning shall be given by a police officer.
e. Violation. Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to the penalty provision contained in Sec. 20-203 – Violation as a Misdemeanor, of the Village of Paw Paw Code of Ordinances.

ARTICLE II - REPEAL

All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

ARTICLE III - SEVERABILITY

The separate provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any provision or section of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions and sections of said Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE IV - EFFECTIVE DATE

Ordinance shall be published in the Courier-Leader. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days following such publication.

AYES: Plaszczak, Richardson, Hamilton, McQueen, Martinez
NAYS: N/A

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Paw Paw at a regular meeting held on April 28, 2025, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Karla Tacy, Clerk, Village of Paw Paw

Personal Representative:
Kenneth B. Springer
33184 Evelyn Avenue
Paw Paw, MI 4079
269-547-0576

State of Michigan County of Van Buren
Publication Notice to Creditors
DECEDENT'S TRUST ESTATE
Decedent: Michelle Lee Brodie (a/k/a Michelle Lee Fisher)
Date of Birth April 9, 1949 (4/9/1949)

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Settlor, Michelle Lee Brodie (a/k/a/ Michelle Lee Fisher, who lived at 70925 Fox Creek Boulevard, Lawton, Michigan 49065 Died January 23, 2025. There is no probate Estate.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Revocable Living Trust Agreement of Michelle L. Brodie u/a/d November 18, 1996, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to: Melissa L. Spyker, Trustee, c/o Shamra M. VanWagoner, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., 277 S. Rose Street, Suite 6000, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

This notice is published pursuant to MCL 700.7504. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Notice is further given that the trust estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

April 22, 2025

Attorney:
Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C.
Shamra M. VanWagoner P44020
277 S. Rose Street, Suite 6000
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Trustee:
Melissa L. Spyker
c/o Shamra M. VanWagoner, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. 277 S. Rose Street, Suite 6000
269-383-5898
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

NEW CCS PUB -> COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: PNC BANK V. DAVID HOLZWORTH; ATTY: TROTT LAW P.C. - TROTT LAW P.C.; 1ST PUB: 5/1/2025; ATTY FILE #: 499675L03; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

VAN BUREN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 24-074232-CH NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, on the 26th of June, 2025 at 1:00 pm, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: The Subject Property is situated in the Township of Porter, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is particularly described as: Lot 26, Block 2, Sandy Beach, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 13, Van Buren County Records More commonly known as: 93140 Gravel Lake Dr., Lawton, MI 49065-8429 This notice is from a debt collector. Date of Notice: April, 21, 2025 Trott Law, P.C.

1559666

(05-01)(06-05)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 5, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Paul N. Palma and Donna Palma, husband and wife, whose address is 46627 Broadway Drive, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026, as original Mortgagors, to Bank of America, N.A., being a mortgage dated February 18, 2011, and recorded on March 21, 2011 in Liber 1547 Page 338, Van Buren County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 23, 2024 and recorded on January 29, 2024 in Liber 1761 Page 392, Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE AND 58/100 DOLLARS ($57,393.58). Said premises are situated in the Township of Arlington, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOTS 6 AND 7, BLOCK 13, SCOTT SHORES SUBDIVISION NO. 1, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS ON PAGE 33, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Street Address: 46627 Broadway Drive, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: May 8, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6479

(05-08)(05-29)

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PLACE AN AD

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• AUCTIONS •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 5/20/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw paw: Arianne Morgan-Jimmerson, 241.

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Lawton council lists goals, projects for rest of year

LAWTON - With the downtown Lawton major streetscape project substantially completed, Lawton Village Council, at the April 22 village council meeting, reviewed plans for the remainder of the year.

Lawton Village Council President Josh Appleby wanted to make sure village council members were caught up on everything and what their next steps would be. President Ap-pleby reviewed plans for the remainder of the year and where the council is at, based on the goals set in last year's workshop.

The top challenges facing the village last year were listed as: rental conditions/downtown, adaptability, commercial and retail properties, roads, assisting develop-ers, lack of housing for seniors and young people, tax base and how to maintain and improve that, financial stability, workforce, and blight.

The village council reviewed each one, reflecting on the rental ordinance nearing completion, current commercial retail properties that are for sale, and some unsafe condi-tions on specific properties, as well as three new businesses that are in the process of opening, or have recently opened in town.

The village council discussed the roads, and the CIP plan, and how to do roads and update the water services simultaneously. This summer's roadwork project will be White Oak.

While the village would like to focus on other roads, council members said more funding will be crucial before determining the next project and will re-evaluate this after next month's audit.

Council members said the lack of housing is still a challenge facing the village; however, it is the hope of the village council that once the RRC is completed, this will open more doors. The village council also discussed the need to host joint meetings with both the planning commission and the DDA each year, as well as review the CIP and Master Plan in order to stay in line with the RRC designation.

The village council discussed the desire to see the budget for next year begin to show one to two years of flexible projections to help them stay aware of what projects save for. State funding and revenue sharing will be the biggest challenge to this idea, as the village does budget prior to receiving these, and they are not guaranteed.

The village council felt that the fall after the first year with Reid's Corner, and the new regulations along with that would be a great time for a joint meeting with the Lawton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the year, as well as a water and sewer committee meeting.

President Appleby expressed hope that the second village council meetings can go back to being the Committee of the Whole meetings, with the large Main Street streetscape projects behind the village.

Village council members also discussed the potential for a new Village of Lawton Department of Public Works (DPW) building, and the potential of Village of Lawton office renovations to make them more usable and accommodating to the needs of the staff.

The village council discussed potential new projects on village buildings, as well as pickleball courts and MDOT buttoning up of the downtown streetscape project. Council members discussed that for all flowerbeds and trees that are a part of this project, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) retains full control for two years. Creating a new employee handbook was also identified as a future goal.

President Appleby said that for the months of June, July, August, and potentially September, he would like to see second village council meetings canceled. He also would like to see another goal setting meeting for the second week in October or November.

Herbalist and author to visit Lawrence Library

LAWRENCE - Herbalist, podcaster and author Bevin Cohen will present

Making Teas Tinctures and Oils at VBDL Lawrence Community Branch Library, Tuesday, May 13, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Participants at the event will learn how to create salves, balms, and tinctures using herbs that can be grown in your own backyard. "It's a great presentation for gardeners and herb enthusiasts looking to take their herbal passion to the next level," said Lawrence Community Branch Librarian Anne Cox.

Bevin will share his decades of experience as an herbalist guiding participants through the many processes involved in crafting a wide range of herbal products for health, wellness and beauty.

Hours for the Lawrence Community Branch Library, 212 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, are Monday through Wednesday,10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday,10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.

For information about this or any other program, call (269) 674-3200.

Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor,

Bloomingdale, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

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STEM Day held at Paw Paw Later Elementary

On April 24, STEM Day took place at Paw Paw Later Elementary School and everywhere you looked, students were engaged in innovative, hand-on activities and creative projects! Thanks to the leadership of Later Elementary STEM Teacher Sarah Crawford, the LE staff and volunteers, and community partners, the goal of preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the future has become a reality.

Photo courtesy/ Paw Paw Public Schools

Senior Veteran Expo held May 5 in Mattawan

The Mattawan Lions Club sponsored a Senior Veteran Expo, held Monday, May 5, at the Antwerp Activity Center, with nearly 60 vendors taking part in the event, providing free giveaways. Also, a mobile Secretary of State (SOS) was available.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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Saturday: Extra 1/2 gram flower w/ each 3.5g purchased!
Sunday: Spend $20 in store to spin the Prize Wheel for a deal!

Everyday: *Subject to Availability*
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